



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM OFFICE  
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109  
Annapolis, Maryland

December 2, 2002

Chesapeake Bay Criteria Document Reviewer-

Thank you for investing the time to review the third, revised draft *Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll a for Chesapeake Bay and its Tidal Tributaries*. To ensure your comments, concerns, ideas and recommendations are factored into the final version of the criteria guidance document, please read through the following instructions for submission of your comments.

**Third of Three Rounds of Review.** The two prior draft versions of the Bay criteria document were reviewed in July-September 2001 and May-July 2002. The criteria document was reviewed by an independent panel of scientists concurrently with the second round of public review. In the past six months, there have been significant enhancements to the draft document, particularly implementation guidelines chapter.

**Final Document will be Desktop Published.** The revised draft document contains figures and tables that will be graphically enhanced and consistently formatted prior to final publication. Given the draft nature of the document, extra resources were not invested in generating a "final" set of figures and tables. Please consider this in preparing your comments.

**Bay Criteria and Implementation Procedures are Well Developed at this Time.** The proposed bay criteria have gone through two prior rounds of review. The draft implementation procedures are being tested and validated through work underway by the Bay Program partners on developing nutrient and sediment loading cap allocations. We especially encourage comments on how all the individual components fit together as an integrated package. Editorial comments are welcome, but please focus your review on the underlying scientific and technical basis for the criteria and recommended implementation guidelines.

**Comments Must be Received by January 13<sup>th</sup>.** Given plans to document written responses to each individual comment received, we would prefer comments submitted in an electronic format. We will take comments written in the margins, faxed and/or sent in as hard copy through regular mail. Please cite the chapter, page number and paragraph (if appropriate) when providing more detailed comments. We strongly encourage comments providing recommended alternative language. The more specific the comments, the better we can incorporate responses into the final document.

**Please Address Your Comments to...** Comments should be e-mailed to [criteria@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:criteria@chesapeakebay.net), faxed to 410-267-5777 or sent by regular mail to Rich Batiuk, U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109, Annapolis, Maryland 21403. Please direct any questions about the criteria, implementation guidelines and overall review process to my attention at 410-267-5731 or via email at [batiuk.richard@epa.gov](mailto:batiuk.richard@epa.gov).

On behalf of the members of the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Steering Committee, thanks for your interest in helping define this first of its kind Chesapeake Bay specific criteria and implementation procedures document developed through the collaborative efforts of partners across the six-state watershed.

Rich Batiuk  
Associate Director for Science